

III. REMARKS

Claims Status

Claims 1-2, 4, 8 and 10-11 are currently under examination on the merits.

Priority

The examiner has not heretofore received English language translations of the priority documents. The translation is enclosed herewith, thus perfecting applicant's priority claim of December 2, 2002.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 112 second paragraph

Claims 1 and 2 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 112, second paragraph, as being indefinite for failing to particularly point out and distinctly claim the subject matter which applicant regards as the invention.

Applicant notes with appreciation the examiner's correct interpretation of the intent of the claims and has amended the claims in accordance with the examiner's interpretation and the intended meaning of the claims.

Claim Rejections - 35 USC § 103(a)

Claims 1-2, 4, 8 and 10-11 stand rejected under 35 U.S.C. 103(a) as being obvious over by McSwiggen et al. (US 2005/0153916 A1) in view of Vickers et al. (*The Journal of Biological Chemistry*, 2003, 278:7108-7118).

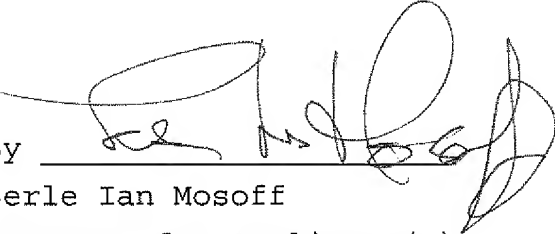
A translation of applicant's foreign priority papers has been

filed herewith. As applicant's priority date is earlier than that of the reference, this rejection is obviated.

The Commissioner is hereby authorized to charge payment for any fees associated with this communication or credit any over payment to Deposit Account No. 14-1263.

Respectfully submitted,

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